

Reducing & Preventing Beach Closures on Lakes and Rivers in Northern New England

Strategies for Detection, Correction, and Financing

May 5, 2006 at Lake Morey Inn, Fairlee, VT

Lake Champlain Sea Grant and EPA New England are co-sponsoring a workshop to provide tools and guidance for town managers, town-elected and volunteer officials, state and local health officials, public works departments, local and state park and beach managers, and regional planners interested in reducing and preventing closures of lake and river beaches and swimming holes.

These workshops are part of the Clean New England Beaches Initiative, called "It's a Shore Thing". To take advantage of the availability of Federal Beach Act grants to coastal states for assessing and monitoring beaches, and notifying the public of water quality conditions, EPA New England established a Clean New England Beaches initiative in 2002 called "It's a Shore Thing". The purpose of the initiative is to reduce public exposure to water-borne pathogens at swimming beaches. This workshop will provide training, tools and guidance to local communities to assess and identify sources of pathogens that cause beach closures, and financial tools to remediate problems appropriate for one of New England's most important resources ----freshwater beaches on lakes and rivers.

Representatives from lakeshore associations, river and watershed organizations, local and state health officials, and officials involved in managing and protecting lake beaches and swimming holes are encouraged to attend. Speakers will be from state and local communities who have experience in reducing beach closures, and with financing beach protection and pollution prevention.

This conference is supported by a grant from US EPA Region 1, with additional support from the USDA CSREES New England Regional Water Quality Program.

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